

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of new claims 34-37. The nucleic acid sequence of new claim 34 has the same scope as original claim 8 when depending from claim 3. Original claim 8 was amended and original claim 3 canceled in Applicants' response to the Office Action of July 2, 1997 which was filed December 30, 1997.

New claim 34 is drawn to purified nucleic acid sequence encoding rat dorsal root ganglia sodium channel, which sodium channel is tetrodotoxin-insensitive. The specification discloses nucleic acid sequences encoding the tetrodotoxin-insensitive sodium channel from rat dorsal root ganglia. The phrase "insensitive to tetrodotoxin" is defined in the specification at page 1, lines 24-29 which state:

"Voltage-gated sodium channels that are blocked by nanomolar concentrations of tetrodotoxin are known as tetrodotoxin sensitive sodium channels (Hille (1991) "Ionic Channels in Excitable Membranes", Sinauer Sunderland, MA (1991)) whilst sodium channels that are blocked by concentrations greater than 1 micromolar are known as tetrodotoxin-insensitive (TTXi) sodium channels (Pearce and Duchon Neuroscience 63, 1041-1056 (1994))."

Example 16 at pages 47 and 48 of the specification shows that the IC_{50} for tetrodotoxin of the claimed rat dorsal root ganglia sodium channel is 60 micromolar (entry for SNS in the table), which is higher than the 1 micromolar amount generally considered to be tetrodotoxin-insensitive.

Reconsideration of the instant application is respectfully requested and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
ZENECA Inc.

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